

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Director
January 11th, 2016

MINUTES

St. John's Properties
1800 N. Prospect Ave
1:00 PM

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Falk-Palec called the December meeting of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities to order at 1:03pm.

ITEM II ROLL CALL

Chair Falk-Palec led the self-introductions of everyone in attendance.

Commissioners Present: Deb Falk-Palec, Sue Pickering, Denise Koss, Cheri McGrath, John Haupt, Kathy Zalewski, Marcia Perkins, Luis Arroyo

Commissioners Absent or Excused: Tom Jacobs, Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., Barbara Leigh, Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki, Meg Steimle

Staff: Mike Bonk

Guests: Tracy Harrington – MTS

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (December)

There was a correction from the Transit Plus Report. The correction should read, "They are restructuring position not restricting position." Commissioner Koss moved to approve the December minutes. Hearing no discussion, Chair Falk-Palec accepted the minutes as written.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORT

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Ms. Harrington reported in 2015, the GoPass was introduced, and the New Freedom program was continued. Over 399,000 trips were tracked using New Freedom in 2015. In 2015 the GoPass issued 1300 ID's and used 13,000 trips. 45% of eligible Transit Plus Users are using GoPass or New Freedom. Mobility Device Trips had 97,600 securements on bus.

MCTS is looking to hiring an individual for their Barrier Removal position and are considering expanding that role. MCTS is also looking to hire a part-time travel training position. They are hoping to fill this position quickly. Commissioner McGrath mentioned Transit Services Advisory Council (TSAC) is looking into if bus times could be more efficient by using a far side stop. Commissioner McGrath commented that there is no consistency on stops, corner stops, mid-block stops, and far side stops. TSAC likes far side stops, and believe they are safer. Cheri is concerned that this inconsistency prevents people with disabilities specifically individuals with visual impairments, from riding the bus. Cheri also mentioned that snow shoveling is an issue at bus stops. Commissioner Koss commented that Aldermen are looking to promote midblock stops, and suggested commenting to the County Supervisors that this would not be a good idea. Ms. Harrington replied by stating that there was a report done by a consultant group Huron that recommended far side stops within their report for safety reasons to prevent right turns in front of buses. Ms. Harrington stated that is not practical within Milwaukee County due to many variables including types of intersections, inclement weather, etc. MCTS is looking to use far side stops where feasible, and where these types of stops will be best suited. Commissioner Perkins commented on snowy conditions explaining that she could not safely stand at the stop and therefore was a little down the road, and had to wave down the bus driver in order to have them stop. Ms. Harrington explained that if the stops are not shoveled out, it is the home owner's responsibility, and if it is City Owned property as it was in this case, then Commissioner Perkins should contact the Department of Public Works.

Chair Falk-Palec discussed the Letter to the Editor draft. Commission discussed as a whole and feels as though letter is too vague, and needs to be worked on in order for the general public to understand the different Transit Programs.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES**ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (December)**

Ms. McGrath expressed concern of the office getting depleted, and not being able to fulfill all the job duties. Commission discussed what can be done to express their concerns. Commission decided not to do anything until the Director expresses his concern about needed more help within the department.

Mr. Bonk explained that the Building Specialist that maintained that Wil-O-Way Facilities recently retired, and the office is looking into how that role will be filled. The position is supposed to be filled in the interim by Ron Owings, and some changes may be made systematically in order to produce electronic work orders.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS**A. Placement of 2015 Eric Hobbs Award Winning Art**

Commission discussed places to display Eric Hobbs award including the Mitchell Airport, Milwaukee Art Museum, West Bend Museum, MSOE Grohman Museum. Office staff will again look to contact the Mitchell Airport & the Milwaukee Art Museum to see the possibilities.

B. Recreation Update(s)

February 6th is Snowmobile Festival from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Spring booklets have been mailed out and will be starting soon. Wil-O-Way Recreation Programs will take place on Mondays & Wednesdays at Grant, and Tuesdays & Thursdays at Underwood, with a focus to increase participation on the community based recreational activities. The Wil-O-Way Color Guard program is coming back to the Wil-O-Ways, and will be having in an event this year with the Milwaukee Admirals, but the date still has yet to be determined. Summer Camp Books will be coming out at the end of the month.

C. Chairpersons Report

All Commissioners are interested in staying commission members, and will forward their names to the County Executive's Office for approval. Commissioners Arroyo, Falk Palek, McGrath, Leigh, Johnson Jr, Koss, and Pickering.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS**ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC****ITEM XI ADJOURN**

Chair Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:05pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, February 8, 2016 at 1:00pm at St. John's Properties (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk, Staff to the Commission